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Letter dated 29 June 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to draw, through you, the attention of the Security Council to the recent developments in Abkhazia, Georgia, that resulted in the death of Georgian civilians:

Yet another act occurred on 25 June of this year in the security zone in Abkhazia, Georgia, in the immediate vicinity of the checkpoints of the Russian peacekeepers, where the illegal Abkhaz formations opened mortar fire at the civilians, killing 2 and wounding 1.

This act added to the atmosphere of violence and impunity in the Gali district: just 10 days before another Georgian civilian, Tinatin Khubua, had fallen victim to the "death squad" of the illegal formations. As the assailants made clear, they aimed at terrorizing the Georgians living in the Gali district and deterring the return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

These provocative actions, together with the aggressive rhetoric of the Abkhaz separatist regime on taking military actions into the depth of the territory of Georgia, are fraught with serious consequences. Most importantly, their target is to undermine the United Nations-led peace process, in particular the efforts undertaken by the Russian and Georgian sides with United Nations participation in the context of realization of the Sochi agreements reached between the Presidents of Russia and Georgia as well as implementation of recommendations of the United Nations Security Assessment Mission in Gali.

By the same token these incidents attested to the urgent need to launch the United Nations peacekeeping operation and equally so to the need for reinforced security arrangements under the aegis of the United Nations to ensure the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

In lieu of the forthcoming meeting on the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, we call upon the Security Council to take immediate measures to avert the escalation of the situation, put an end to the killings of civilians and address the issue of their protection in the zone of conflict.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gocha **Lordkipanidze**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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